

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06

CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /100 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5306

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

AMCONSUL LIVERPOOL

UNCLAS LONDON 15279

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, UK

SUBJECT: LABOR PARTY CONFERENCE: ROUND UP OF FOURTH DAY

REF: LONDON 15192

SUMMARY- FRATNERAL ADDRESS OF PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST LEADER
SOARES AND DEBATE ON PORTUGAL RESOLUTION (SEPTTEL) WERE MAJOR
EVENTS OF OCTOBER 2, A DAY OTHERWISE DEVOTED TO LOWER PRIORITY
DOMESTIC ISSUES AND OVERSEAS AID. PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY
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HAYWARD DELIVERED FIGHTING SPEECH CALLING FOR STRONGER PARTY

AND CLOSER PARTY/GOVERNMENT UNITY. IT WAS MOST POPULAR INTERVENTION SINCE THAT OF EMPLOYMENT MINISTER FOOT ON FIRST DAY. PRESS ATTENTION, HOWEVER, WAS DIRECTED AT HOTEL LOBBY DISPUTE BETWEEN FOOT AND FELLOW TRIBUNE IAN MIKARDO IN EARLY MORNING FOLLOWING TRIBUNE RALLY (REFTEL. END SUMMARY.

1. MARIO SOARES' ADDRESS AND DEBATE ON PORTUGAL RESOLUTION WERE SUBSTANTIVE HIGH POINTS (SEPTE) OF CONFERENCE OCTOBER 2. CONFERENCE ALSO APPROVED RESOLUTION ON OVERSEAS AID WHICH URGED GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE AID BY 20 MILLION POUNDS IMMEDIATELY AND TO .7 PERCENT OF GNP BY 1980, REDUCE GRAIN IMPORTS, IMPROVE TRADE TERMS WITH THIRD WORLD AND REINSTATE OVERSEAS AID AS INDEPENDENT MINISTRY. CONFERENCE, IN ADDITION ADDRESSED LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE, TRANSPORT POLICY, LEGAL SERVICES, WORLD FOOD RESOURCES AND PARTY MANIFESTO, PASSING SEVERAL RESOLUTIONS ON THESE SUBJECTS IN COURSE OF VERY PRODUCTIVE DAY.

2. PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY RON HAYWARD DELIVERED POWERFUL PEP TALKS TO DELEGATES, STRESSING PARTY UNITY AND OBLIGATION OF MPS TO SUPPORT CONFERENCE DECISIONS, AND ENDING WITH UPBEAT CALL FOR ALL LABOR SUPPORTERS TO JOIN PARTY THEREBY "JOINING THE FIGHT TO SAVE GREAT BRITAIN." IT WAS EMOTIONAL, CROWD PLEASING STUFF, AND THE DELEGATES LAPPED IT UP. HAYWARD WAS REWARDED WITH MOST ENTHUSIASTIC AND SPONTANEOUS APPLAUSE SINCE EMPLOYMENT MINISTER FOOT SPOKE TO CONFERENCE ON FIRST DAY.

3. NATURE OF ISSUES ADDRESSED AND RELATIVELY LOW DEGREE OF CONTENTION ON FLOOR WAS REFLECTED IN PRESS WHICH FOCUSED MOST OF ITS ATTENTION ON CONFRONTATION BETWEEN FOOT AND LEFT-WING MP IAN MIKARDO THAT OCCURRED IN EARLY HOURS OF OCTOBER 2 IN HOTEL LOBBY. SEVERAL MEMBERS OF PRESS WERE PRESENT. DISPUTE GREW OUT OF MIKARDO'S EARLIER SCATHING ATTACK ON GOVERNMENT AT TRIBUNE RALLY (REFTEL. WHILE THIS INCIDENT MADE GOOD PRESS, IT IS OF ONLY MINOR SIGNIFICANCE AND IS MORE INDICATIVE OF LATE HOUR AND TIRING CONFERENCE THAN OF SERIOUS RIGHT IN LEFT-WING. FOOT AND JACK JONES WERE NOT ONLY MEMBERS OF LABOR LEFT WHO THOUGHT MIKARDO EXCEEDED LIMITS OF COMRADELY DISSENT AT TRIBUNE RALLY, BUT ALL DISPUTANTS APPEARED TO HAVE MADE UP BY TIME OF CONFERENCE.

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